



OSDBU NEWS BULLETIN

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NASA WINS SBA'S FRANCES PERKINS AWARD

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recently announced that NASA is the winner of the prestigious **Frances Perkins Vanguard Award** "for excelling in its utilization of women owned small businesses" for 2005. NASA, which was selected after a Federal-wide competition, will receive the award during the "SBA Expo – Celebrating National Small Business Week 2005" in Washington, D.C. during April 26 – 28, 2005.

"Outstanding!!!! No other words can describe the pleasure I feel for this outstanding recognition and award. Great job to you and your team," **Acting NASA Administrator Fred Gregory** wrote to **Ralph C. Thomas III, NASA Assistant Administrator for Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization**, upon hearing the news. Mr. Gregory, a former NASA astronaut, assumed the top leadership role at NASA after the departure of former Administrator, Sean O'Keefe. He has pledged to continue NASA's proactive leadership with regard to small and disadvantaged business utilization.

During FY 2004 NASA awarded \$847 million to women owned small businesses in prime (\$323 million) and subcontract (\$524 million) dollars, setting agency records in both categories. This was a near \$200 million increase over the agency's dollars to such firms in FY 2003. It also represented NASA's highest total dollars ever awarded to women owned small businesses. Presumably, the SBA was also impressed with NASA's **Women Contractors at NASA** publication, which highlights the significant contributions of selected women entrepreneurs to NASA's space program. Such program was spearheaded by **NASA's Women Owned Business Advocate, Shirley Perez**, also a 2005 winner of NASA's Space Flight Awareness Award.

NASA SETS NEW RECORD FOR PRIME AND SUBCONTRACT DOLLARS TO SMALL DISADVANTAGED BUSINESSES

Public Law No. 101-144 requires NASA to award **8 percent** of its annual prime and subcontract dollars to small disadvantaged businesses (SDB's). These include minority-owned firms, minority educational institutions, and women owned businesses. For FY 2004 NASA achieved **19.4 percent**, or \$2.25 billion, against that goal. It is NASA's highest achievement, both in terms of percentage and dollars.

NASA's achievement was almost a 50/50 split between prime contracts to SDB's and subcontract dollars to such firms. Such firms received \$1.1 billion dollars in prime contract dollars and \$1.4 billion in subcontract dollars. The figures were adjusted to ensure that there was no double counting in the total sum amounts of prime and subcontract dollars. **Record amounts went to SDB 8(a) companies** in prime contract dollars (\$546 million) as well as to **SDB 8(a) and non-8(a) SDB's** combined (\$921 million).

"This is most impressive," said Thomas. "What is so remarkable is that every part of Team NASA plays a role in our success. We have definitely established a unique pro-small business culture here."

[Through NASA, we touch the unknown, we learn and we understand.]

NASA SUBMITS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO OMB AND SBA ON INCREASED CONTRACTING WITH SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

On October 20, 2004, **President George W. Bush** signed Executive Order 13360 to increase Federal contracting and subcontracting opportunities for **service-disabled veteran businesses** (SDVOB's). Among other things, the Order requires each Federal agency to: (1) develop a strategy to significantly increase its contracting and subcontracting with small businesses owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans; (2) designate a senior-level official to be responsible for developing and implementing the agency's strategy; and, (3) report its progress annually to the Small Business Administration (SBA). Agencies were required to submit their implementation plans to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the SBA by February 7, 2005.

NASA submitted its plan in a timely manner, designating Ralph C. Thomas III as the senior –level official in charge of the effort. In the plan NASA first pointed out that it had already been implementing a successful strategy in increasing its contracting with SDVOB's for the past fiscal year. From FY 2003 to FY 2004, for example, NASA more than doubled its prime contract dollars to such firms **from \$27 million in FY 2003 to \$64 million in FY 2004.**

“Our plan is simple,” said NASA's Ralph Thomas. “We are going to use the same approach that we used to significantly increase our contract dollars to all other categories of small business – by intensifying our message to them to participate in our existing small business-friendly programs and initiatives.”

As Thomas points out in the plan, however, NASA's approach is a “two-way street.” “There is no substitute or shortcut around the small business's ability to persuade the end user at NASA, or any other agency, that your company has a high quality product or service that its company can deliver at the best value with priority attention to issues of safety and risk assessment,” said Thomas. “That's the way small, minority, and women owned businesses have excelled at NASA, and we expect no less from SDVOB's. We encourage them to do their proper market research and take advantage of the many programs and initiatives at their disposal here at NASA.”

PRIME CONTRACTORS ROUNDTABLE TO PRODUCE MARKETING MANUAL FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

In 1993 the NASA OSDBU established a Prime Contractors Roundtable, consisting of the top major corporate prime contractors that do business with NASA. The purpose was to facilitate an informational exchange between such firms on best practices for increasing subcontract dollars to small disadvantaged businesses. The organization meets at least twice a year. The organization has been an overwhelming success. Subcontract dollars to SDB's have doubled since the establishment of the Roundtable from \$500 million annually to over \$1 billion. Moreover, NASA Field Centers, such as the **Johnson Space Center** in Houston, Texas and the **Marshall Space Flight Center** in Huntsville, Alabama, have started their own Regional Prime Contractor Roundtables.

The Roundtable's latest project is to develop a handbook for small businesses on how to market to major corporations. “This is a project that is very timely,” said **Julie Paglione, Lockheed Martin's Small Business Liaison Officer**. “If we can show small businesses what to do and what not to do in their marketing efforts, it's a much more productive experience for both us and them.”

The manual is expected to be ready by April 1, 2005 and will be made available through the NASA OSDBU's website at <www.osdbu.nasa.gov>

NASA OSDBU PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

CHIOGIOJI ACTIVE ON SOURCE SELECTION TEAMS

Since her arrival at NASA in November 2004, **Dr. Eleanor “Eli” Chiogioji** has been active in ensuring that significant small business participation is present in some of NASA’s major contracts. As the OSDBU’s Program Manager for Exploration Systems, she put in countless hours as an ex officio member of the source selection team for the **Human and Robotics Testing (H&RT) Contracts** that were recently issued, making sure that all bidders complied with NASA’s small business utilization goals in their competitive proposals. She was also the lead Small Business Program Manager in negotiating the small business goal portion of the **NASA Shared Services Center Contract** which contains a **40 percent goal for small businesses**. Moreover, since coming to NASA in October 2003 from AT&T, she has standardized the process by which OSDBU Program Managers survey the NASA Field Centers Small Business Programs to ensure not only statutory and regulatory compliance with Federal laws and regulations, but also uniformity with OSDBU programs and initiatives. In addition, Dr. Chiogioji is the lead OSDBU Program Manager on the team to select a new contractor for the new NASA Small Business Training Program, which replaces the NASA OSDBU’s successful Training and Development for Small Businesses in Advanced Technologies which trained over 2000 small business owners and executives during the FY 1994 – FY 2004 period.



NASA OSDBU’s Dr. Eleanor Chiogioji, a native of Hawaii, with U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii (center) and NASA Assistant Administrator Ralph C. Thomas III, a former Hawaii resident, at the Asian American Government Executives Banquet in Washington, D.C.

HAMES PLANNING SMALL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS CONFERENCE

Lamont Hames, OSDBU Chief of Staff, is busy organizing a major annual conference for small businesses seeking contracts with NASA. It will be the **NASA OSDBU Annual Small Business Solutions Conference**. It is currently planned for September 1-2, 2005, in New York City, New York.

“We want to bring the success that the **NASA/Jet Propulsion Laboratory High Tech Small Business Conference** has enjoyed on the West Coast to the East Coast,” said Hames, noting that the JPL conference garners nearly 1500 attendees every March. “We’re choosing New York because it is the center of America. It represents the dreams and aspirations of all cultures, races, and ethnicities. Its rich diversity is what the American dream is all about,” he added.

Hames hopes to attract a large number of contractors from all over the country by making the conference a “one-stop event,” whereby all of NASA’s Field Centers and major corporations are represented. Hames also hopes to quell fears of potential attendees that, “New York is so expensive,” by getting hotel and registration rates down to an affordable level. “I’m sure that small businesses will be pleasantly surprised with what we’ve worked out as far as room rates,” Hames said. He urges all interested individuals to stay tuned for future details on the conference.

NASA’S MINORITY BUSINESS RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE DISCUSSES BEST PRACTICES FOR JOINT VENTURES

The **NASA Minority Business Resource Advisory Committee (MBRAC)** met on February 17-18, 2005, at the **Goddard Space Flight Center** in Greenbelt, Maryland, recently to continue carrying out the Committee’s work of advising NASA on how to most effectively integrate minority businesses and minority serving institutions into its competitive base of contractors. “For me the issue is inclusion,” said MBRAC Chair **Knox Tull of Jackson and Tull** of Washington, D.C. We must ensure that NASA includes minority businesses in every contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or any other form of procurement or acquisition.”

Meanwhile, **R. Gillem Lucas**, President of **Apariq, Inc.**, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, feels that contracting methods could be used to develop and grow the shortage of minority scientists and engineers in America. “We already use incentives in Federal contracts to achieve a number of other societal values objectives that the Government deems important,” he said. “We should explore the possibilities of whether such incentives or contract clauses can be used to encourage the utilization and development of minority scientists and engineers, which are grossly underrepresented in the country right now.”

Adrian Marsh, President of Marsh Communications in Los Angeles, California, is pushing MBRAC to duplicate its success in adopting the now-heralded, **MBRAC Model Principles for Teaming Agreements**, by developing a similar model for Joint Venture Arrangements. “More and more we see joint ventures going after large Federal procurements,” Marsh said. “These not only include large businesses teaming with small businesses, but also small minority businesses teaming with other small minority businesses. There needs to be some mature guidance put out on these types of arrangements, because most of the small business community is still pretty much in the dark on this.”

MINORITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS NEWS

On December 16, 2004 NASA OSDBU’s Ralph C. Thomas, III visited the **University of Texas – Pan American (UTPA)** in Edinburg, Texas, a Hispanic Serving Institution. **Dr. Blandina Cardenas**, UTPA President, invited Thomas to explain prospective NASA contracting and subcontracting opportunities with the university’s administrators and faculty, together with representatives from UTPA’s Computing and Information Technology Center (CITeC). UTPA’s long term vision is to build a regional coalition to support a strong science, engineering, and information technology presence in the Rio Grande Valley. To that end the university wanted to know more about how it could compete for NASA contract and subcontracts



Pictured left to right: Wendy Lawrence-Fowler (UTPA), Ralph Thomas (NASA), Shelly Mehra Chitcheba (CITEC, UTPA), Thomas Baugh (NASA-JSC), Richard Fowler, (CITEC, UTPA), Ed LeMaster (UTPA).

and how they differed from NASA grants. Thomas was given a tour of the school's Computing and Information Technology Center and spoke with many faculty members as well as students. Thomas was hosted by CITEC Director Dr. Richard Fowler and CITEC Research Coordinator Shelly Chitcheba, who attended NASA's Small Business Training Program earlier in the year. She is the university's most vocal advocate for pursuing more contracting opportunities. Also participating in the briefing to UTPA was **Tom Baugh** of the Procurement Office of Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston, who spoke about contract opportunities at the Center. UTPA will be the host of **NASA's Annual National Minority Serving Institutions Conference** in February 2006. The school has over 17,000 students.

HONORS AND RETIREMENTS

JPL'S KUHN IS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

The **2004 Committee Award** of the **DoD Western Regional Council for Small Business Education and Advocacy** was presented to **Margo Kuhn** on December 3, 2004, in recognition of her loyalty and dedicated support to the Council and the Council Interface Committee. A Small Business Specialist for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Margo has served as an Executive Board member for over 20 years. The Council represents approximately 150 members from the prime contractor sector and government agencies.



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JPL Small Business Specialist Margo Kuhn (right) receives 2004 Committee Award from C. Willet (center) and Susan Burrows, both of the DoD Western Regional Council for Small Business Education and Advocacy.

SHIRLEY PEREZ WINS SPACE FLIGHT AWARENESS AWARD

NASA OSDBU's Shirley Perez is the winner of NASA's **Space Flight Awareness Award**. The award recognizes individuals at NASA who have made significant contributions to the Agency's efforts to return to safe flight. Ms. Perez was honored for producing the upcoming publication entitled, ***The Role of Small Businesses in NASA's Return to Flight Initiative***. It highlights both the prime contract and subcontract work that all categories of small businesses are currently performing in response to the recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB) Report. Ms. Perez was one of only five (5) individuals in the agency to receive the award. The honorees will be formally recognized at an event to be held at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN, March 30 - April 1, 2005.

NASA OSDDU'S TONY DIAMOND RETIRES

Anthony "Tony" Diamond of the NASA OSDBU retired after 46 years of Federal government service on January 3, 2005. Diamond had been a member of the OSDBU staff since 1991. He made significant contributions to NASA's goaling process and facilitated the establishment of the automated small business subcontracting reporting system at NASA. The system effectively supersedes the manual manner in which prime contractors use to report their small business subcontracting figures to NASA. The new system has made such reports more accurate, more timely, and more useful, particularly for small business goal

projection purposes. NASA's model will be substantially mirrored in a new Federal-wide subcontract reporting system now being developed.

Mr. Diamond is also a retired Navy Captain and an avid marathon runner. At his retirement party, held on February 4, 2005, Ralph Thomas presented him with a ***Special Recognition Award*** for his contributions on behalf of small businesses. Representatives from other Federal agencies, small businesses and major corporations were on hand to bid "Tony" farewell. His wife and two sons, one of whom is attending medical school, and the other who is attending law school, were also on hand for the festivities. "He will be sorely missed," said **Dr. Eleanor Chiogioji** of the NASA OSDBU, who will take over Diamond's duties as the Program Manager with oversight of the Space Operations Centers at **Johnson Space Center, Marshall Space Flight Center, and Stennis Space Center.**

MARSHALL'S STAN McCALL RETIRES

Stan McCall, a Small Business Specialist at NASA's **Marshall Space Flight Center**, retired on January 31, 2005. Stan "the Man" will be remembered for his easy going, but assertive and tough, advocacy on behalf of small businesses.

"Stan was a model of what a Small Business Specialist should be," said Ralph Thomas. "Not much got past him. He was a sincere and proactive advocate whose accomplishments should serve as a model for those coming after him."

PRIME CONTRACTORS ROUNDTABLE MEMBER IS HONORED

Lon F. Miller of **Jacobs Sverdrup** received an award from Marshall Space Flight Center for achieving 3 million work hours without an accident. Mr. Miller is the Program Manager for the Mentor Protégé Team of Jacobs Sverdrup and **Qualis Corporation**, an SDB woman owned company of Huntsville, Alabama, headed by **Elizabeth Morard**. The team is a past winner of NASA's **Goldin Stokes Mentor Protégé of the Year Award**.

2004 MINORITY BUSINESS & ADVOCATES AWARD WINNERS

Last September NASA held its **Annual Minority Business and Advocates Awards Ceremony**. The following are profiles of the winners of each category:

Minority Contractor of the Year

Science Systems and Applications, Inc. (SSAI), Inc., of Lanham, Maryland, is headed by Mr. **Om Bahethi**. During its 27- year history, the firm has supported the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) with significant contributions to the technical challenges posed by **more than 80 Earth and 55 space science missions.**

SSAI's excellent services provided key elements of the technological breakthrough in the development of: 1) microshutter technology instrumentation for the **James Webb Space Telescope**; 2) the **MODIS Rapid Response System** – a critical resource for monitoring and fighting forest fires in near real-time; and 3) the **Global Alert Resolution Network (GARNET)** system that generates immediate hazard and emergency notifications to all employees. **SSAI's outstanding safety record of 0.1 incidents per 100 employees is ten times better than the DuPont Safety Program standard of one incident per 100 employees. SSAI has achieved cost savings of over \$2.5 million in the last three years.**

Minority Subcontractor of the Year

Crewestone Technologies, Inc., of Hampton, Virginia, is headed by **Larry Crewe**. Under **NASA Langley Research Center's Consolidated Logistics, Administrative and Scientific Information Contract**

(CLASIC), Crewestone's performance has been no less than outstanding. As a subcontractor to Tessada and Associates on the **CLASIC** contract, Crewestone provides key video services for Langley's research community, including the Center's Office of Public Affairs and its Office of Education Distance Learning Program. Additionally, Crewestone manages the Audio/Visual (A/V) Services Branch contract.

Crewestone's dedication and hard work has resulted in more than 50 major national video awards. Last fall, Crewestone's producers received the coveted **Japan Prize honoring the "NASA Sci Files" as one of the top six children's educational shows in the world.** In March of 2004, Crewestone received NASA Headquarters' prestigious **"Videographer of the Year" Award.**

Crewestone continually leads the contract team with its Technical Performance scores and has contributed to the Team's **total cost savings** to the NASA in the amount of **\$415 thousand** since the inception of the contract. Crewestone has also been a key contributor to the Team's safety record. The company leads the way with a **flawless safety record** of no accidents or incidents in the two plus years since contract inception.

Woman Owned Business of the Year

Cimarron, Inc. is located Houston, Texas and is headed by Ms. **Rosalind "Roz" Doyle.** In 2004, Cimarron transitioned from the **Consolidated Space Operations Contract (CSOC)** to the **Mission Support Operations Contract (MSOC)** when NASA awarded the MSOC to Lockheed Martin for the tasks identified in the CSOC Statement of Work at Johnson Space Center (JSC).

Cimarron is responsible for Hardware and Network, Reconfiguration, Maintenance, Flight Operations and Software Development of the Mission Control Center (MCC) and the Integrated Planning System (IPS) at NASA JSC. The MCC is an integrated ground facility providing command, control and communications capabilities critical for the operation of the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station (ISS). While on CSOC/MSOC, Cimarron employees have received **7 Space Flight Awareness Awards, 14 Silver Snoopy Awards, and 40 Associate Program Manager & Excellence Awards.** **JSC has recognized Cimarron as the JSC Subcontractor of the Year in 2002 and 2003.**

In 2003 Cimarron supported the NASA Network Director with the processing and analysis of data to assist **the Columbia Accident Investigation Board's (CAIB)** efforts. This included daily meeting support, management presence at MCC, the capture and impounding of all recycle bins in MCC and impounding of data into a secure area, as well as providing many inputs to the CAIB for reliable and safe operation of the Shuttle program. **Since October 2001, Cimarron has performed over 5.4 million consecutive hours of work on CSOC/MSOC without even one lost workday. Cimarron represents 39% of the workforce on MSOC.**

Exceptional Achievement Medals

Mr. Joe Conley (Ames Research Center)--Exceptional Achievement Medal for TECHNICAL CATEGORY

Mr. Carlos Torrez (Ames Research Center)--Exceptional Achievement Medal for PROCUREMENT CATEGORY

The Ames-Consolidated IT Services (A-CITS) Source Evaluation Board (SEB) was appointed to conduct a competitive selection process to replace the **Federal Information Processing Services (FIPS)** contract at **NASA Ames Research Center.** FIPS was the latest in a series of contracts that have provided information technology (IT) services and research support at Ames for more than 30 years. The A-CITS requirement was valued at \$300 million and consisted of several hundred IT professionals working across eight Directorates at Ames.

A-CITS, valued at \$300M, was believed to be the single largest contract award from NASA to a small disadvantaged business in the history of the Agency. It was certainly the largest such award to date at NASA Ames Research Center.

“Awards like this send an important message to the small business community,” said Lamont Hames, NASA OSDBU’s Awards Program Manager. “It says that not only can small businesses compete against very large competitors under a fair and open competition, but also small businesses can win in such an environment.”

The overall A-CITS effort was extremely successful with several significant accomplishments and numerous innovations. In fact, **Ames Center Director Scott Hubbard** congratulated the Board on numerous occasions for doing an "outstanding job," saying that he was very impressed with the SEB's "tremendous effort" and "professional process." Key elements incorporated into this full and open competition were: 1) Small Business Targets; 2) Small Business Incentives & Performance; 3) NASA Mentor-Protégé Program; and, 4) Past Performance & Small Business Status.

Mr. Conley was the Chair of the A-CITS SEB and Mr. Carlos Torrez was the A-CITS Contracting Officer. Their teamwork and leadership were instrumental to the innovations and overall success of the A-CITS procurement activity.

Ms. Mary Helen Ruiz (JPL) --Exceptional Achievement Medal for SMALL BUSINESS CATEGORY

Over the past 5 years, Ms. Ruiz has been an unsung heroine for her advocacy and support of **JPL’s Business Opportunities Office**, NASA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business (OSDBU), and other NASA Centers in support of the following Agency programs to name a few: **NASA’s Annual Technology and Business Conference**, the **JPL Space Science Symposium for Small Businesses**; the **NASA Minority Business & Advocates Awards Ceremony**; and, the **NASA/JPL High Tech Small Business Conference**.

Her support for the above events and associated tasks were completed with outstanding commitment and achievements. Annually, the feedback for her efforts are excellent. Attendees say that she exceeds customer expectations mainly because of her follow - up process. Mary Helen unselfishly works evenings and weekends in the planning phase of such events, which has led to maximum attendance at such events.

Special Recognition Awards

Winners of the NASA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) **Special Recognition Awards** for lifetime achievement or a single outstanding act are: the **Minority Business and Professionals Network** of Washington, D.C., headed by Ms. **Debra Williams** and Mr. **Sunny Ezeji**

In a relatively short time, the Minority Business and Professionals Network has become one of the leading trade associations for minority and women owned businesses and professionals. MBPN lifts up NASA, its mission, and its Small Business Program as it hosts numerous high quality programs, locally and nationally, per year. It recently launched **Minority Enterprise Advocate**, a trade magazine dedicated to minority business issues, which has regularly featured NASA news. The cover of their first issue featured **NASA’s 2003 Woman-owned Business of the Year**.

Innovative Technologies, Inc. (ITI) of Chantilly, Virginia, headed by **Mario Martinez** is the producer of **NASA Television**. ITI covers NASA news and events around the clock, and the quality of its programming has often been described as, “ world class.” ITI and its staff has covered not only NASA news and events, but it has covered the Minority Business and Advocates Awards Ceremony live on NASA TV for the past thirteen years.

Frontier Electronic Systems (FES) of Stillwater, Oklahoma, headed by its President, Ms. **Peggy Shreve**, and its Chief Operating Officer, **Charles “Chuck” Gray**, was selected for its support of the recent, successful **Aura** launch. Frontier Electronic Systems Corp., under subcontract to **Northrop Grumman Space**

Technology, performed product design, manufacture and test of the Array, Power Control, Heater Drive and emergency power (Array Clamp) Electronics modules for NASA Goddard's AURA Satellite.

These modules form the Electrical Power Distribution System which powers the satellite and its mission systems while in Space. FES Corp. provided a similar Electrical Power Distribution System for NASA's , **AQUA Satellite** which has been performing flawlessly since its launch in May 2002. FES Corp. will continue to contribute to NASA's Success as the supplier of the Electrical Power Distribution System for NPOESS under subcontract to NGST.

Center Small and Disadvantaged Business Achievement Awards

The following NASA Centers were recognized for meeting all of their major negotiated contracting and subcontracting goals for FY 2003:

Langley Research Center – Small Business Specialist: A. Vernon Vann <a.v.vann@larc.nasa.gov>
Glenn Research Center – Small Business Specialist: Carl Silski <Carl.L.Silski@grc.nasa.gov>
Marshall Space Flight Center –Small Business Specialist: David Brock <david.brock@msfc.nasa.gov>
NASA Headquarters-- Small Business Specialist: Rosa Acevedo <Rosa.E.Acevedo@nasa.gov>

UPCOMING EVENTS THAT NASA OSDBU WILL EITHER HOST OR SIGNIFICANTLY PARTICIPATE IN

March 30 – April 1, 2005: 5th Annual National Multicultural Business Conference, hosted by Diversity Business.com, Mashantucket, CT; Website: www.diversitybusiness.com

April 21, 2005: 15th Annual OSDBU Procurement Conference, hosted by the Federal OSDBU Directors Interagency Council, Show Place Arena, Upper Marlboro, MD; Contact: bj1@fbcd.com

April 26-28, 2005: SBA Expo '05 – Celebrating National Small Business Week, hosted by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C.; Website: <www.sba.gov/expo>

May 4-6, 2005: 20th Annual CelebrAsian 2005, hosted by U.S. Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. Website: www.uspaacc.com

May 12, 2005: Small and Small Disadvantaged Business Procurement Conference, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland; Contact: <Malores.V.Pridgeon@nasa.gov>

June 2, 2005, “Doing Business with NASA,” hosted by the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) of the **Rockland Economic Development Corporation**; Orange County Government Center, Goshen, New York; Contact: Pauline Drakopoulos <paulined@REDC.org>

September 1-2, 2005: “NASA Small Business Solutions Conference,” hosted by the NASA OSDBU, New York City, New York; Contact: Lamont Hames lhames@hq.nasa.gov

September 11-14, 2005: National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week 2005 Conference Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency; Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.; Website:<www.medweek.gov>

[NASA fuels discoveries that make the world smarter, safer, and healthier]